

to the optical storage media; and

a second stage serially coupling the first stage to the at least one storage device, and the second stage for aggregating the received data packets corresponding with a plurality of files from the first stage and writing aggregated data corresponding thereto to the optical storage media on the at least one storage device.

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2. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 1, further comprising:

a processor coupled to the first stage, the second stage and the at least one storage device, and the processor generating data structures for the received data packets in a format selected for the optical storage media and with addresses corresponding with the location of the data packets in selected ones of the first stage, the second stage, and the optical storage media.

3. (Amended) The apparatus of Claim 2, wherein the data structures include:

information control blocks (ICBs) each associated with a file and each containing a list of extents for the associated file and with selected ones of the extents corresponding with a coalescing of sequential packets from a selected file into a larger extent.

5. (Amended) An apparatus for providing I/O access to at least one data storage medium across a network, and the apparatus comprising:

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a network module configured to couple to the network for sending and receiving data packets;

at least one data storage device coupled to said network module and the at least one data storage device for providing an input and an output of datum stored on the at least one data storage medium in directory and file structures;

a hard drive coupled to said network module; and

a processor coupled to the at least one data storage device and the hard drive, and the processor responsive to a boot up of the at least one data storage device to cache on the hard drive a selected cached one of directory and file structures corresponding with the directory

and file structures on the at least one data storage medium or the corresponding directory and file structures together with the corresponding datum.

6. (Amended) A method for providing I/O access across a network to at least one data storage medium with datum stored in directory and file structures, and the method comprising the acts of:

coupling to the network for sending and receiving data packets;

caching during a boot phase of operation a selected cached one of directory and file structures corresponding with the directory and file structures on the at least one data storage medium or the corresponding directory and file structures together with the corresponding datum;

responding to an I/O access request to display the associated directory and file structures for the at least one data storage medium to display a cached copy of the directory and file structures; and

responding to an I/O access request to read datum corresponding with a file on the at least one data storage medium to read a cached copy of the datum when the selected cached one includes the corresponding datum.

7. (New) The apparatus of Claim 5, with the processor further responsive to a request to display the directory and file structures for the at least one data storage medium to display a cached copy of the directory and file structures from the hard drive.

8. (New) The apparatus of Claim 5, with the processor further responsive to a read I/O access request for a file on the at least one data storage medium to read the corresponding datum from the hard drive when the selected cached one includes the corresponding datum.

9. (New) The method of Claim 4 further comprising:

generating data structures for the received data packets in a format selected for the

optical storage media and with addresses corresponding with the location of the data packets in selected ones of the first stage, the second stage, and the optical storage media.

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10. (New) The method of Claim 4, wherein the data structures include:

information control blocks (ICBs) each associated with a file and each containing a list of extents for the associated file and with selected ones of the extents corresponding with a coalescing of sequential packets from a selected file into a larger extent.

REMARKS

Applicant preliminarily amends the original claim as filed with the amendment of Claim 1-3 and 5-6 and the addition of Claims 7-10. Support for the amended claims can be found throughout the specification.

Entry of the proposed preliminary amendment is respectfully requested. Attached hereto is a marked-up version of the changes made to the claims by the current amendment. The attached page is captioned "Version with markings to show changes made."

Favorable consideration is respectfully solicited.

Respectfully submitted,
CARY & KELLY, LLP

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Signed: 

Charles C. Cary
Registration No. 36,764

CARY & KELLY, LLP
1875 Charleston Road
Mountain View, California 94043
Telephone: 650.533.4844
Fax: 650.316.4013